

## Introductions

Chair Merriman welcomed guests, hosts and staff.

## Approve Agenda

Moore moved to approve the agenda as written.

Bridges seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

David Brown, Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest Ballet, welcomed Commissioners and staff to the Seattle Center. Brown reviewed the role and programs of the Pacific Northwest Ballet and stated that the Pacific Northwest Ballet appreciated the support of the Washington State Arts Commission.

Kelly Tweeddale, Administrative Director of the Seattle Opera, reflected on the relationship between the Seattle Center, the Pacific Northwest Ballet and the Seattle Opera in planning McCaw Hall by opening it up to the community. Later this summer, a new piece of public art will be installed in the lobby area. Tweeddale invited Commissioners to experience a performance.

Steve Sneed distributed brochures about the Seattle Center Campus and the many cultural and ethnic events that take place there. The vision statement of the Seattle Center is to bring people together as a rich and varied community. McCaw Hall has an open, glass space at the entrance so that all people know that they are welcome.

Sneed introduced Karen Butler, Sales Manager for the Seattle Center. Butler manages rental spaces for McCaw Hall and she reviewed the various events and uses of the hall itself.

Ben Moore stated that Kelly Tweeddale has been leading an effort for the last 18 months, called the Arts Coalition that grew from a research project funded by Pew, called Performing Arts Research Coalition (PARC). PARC was a 10-city nationwide study focused to discover how to articulate the value of the work done in the performing arts and to enhance participation on a broad-based basis. This research has been subsequently augmented and expanded upon with *The Gifts of the Muse* by Rand. The Seattle Foundation provided \$100,000 for the coalition to do three things in a year's time. One part was continuing the research that was begun with the coalition to draw data from different sources and attempt to integrate that information. The second part was to engage in a process of convenings/gatherings people in the community to discuss the value of arts in a healthy community and how the arts can become more a part of civic discourse. This second part of the endeavor has been the most difficult but recently a few focus groups have been developed with community leaders/opinion makers. The third part is a public participation campaign, which is the most high profile of these three parts. About \$60,000 was leveraged into nearly \$250,000 in terms of a media campaign called *Take Part in Art*, which consists of outdoor advertising, print and radio. There are about four segments for each of the principal disciplines: opera, symphony, ballet, visual art and theater. A website was created with the help of Encore Publications and Pop Media as well as the coalition links about 100+ organizations around Seattle ([TakePartInArt.org](http://TakePartInArt.org)). The website has a robust search device which allows you to select from all the offerings of

these organizations to select something in particular. This is a small pilot project, which may actually result in a long term, on-going effort.

### **Chair's Report**

Merriman respectfully suggested a change in the order of the agenda, to either move his report off the agenda or delay until later in the afternoon. Representative Kessler has to leave early to join a delegation with Lt. Governor, Brad Owen to Los Angeles and San Francisco to visit consulates in that area, representing the state's legislative work.

### **Approve Agenda**

Moore moved to accept the agenda as written.

Bridges seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Legislative Report**

Representative Kessler said that she was recently appointed to represent the House Democrats in a group that Lt. Governor Owen called the Legislative Economic Development National Trade Committee specifically to reach out and encourage trade all over the world. There will be approximately 32 delegates from different countries. She said that arts and culture are very much a part of each country.

Kessler reported that the 2005 Legislative session was challenging, interesting and probably one of her best in 13 years. Every week, the Governor met with her and Senate Majority Leader, Lisa Brown to meet in a cooperative attempt to get done and end the session on time.

Kessler said she also met with Helen Sommers, the Appropriations Chair and Representative Bill Fromhold, the Vice Chair. At one point, she opposed a staff recommendation to cut the Arts Commission budget 35%. Kessler communicated that since the Arts Commission took a 20% cut two years ago, it was not possible to leave this suggestion on the table and it came off.

Kessler stated that Senator Margarita Prentice proposed a budget increase for WSAC as part of her effort to impose a 5% tax to card rooms in non-Indian gaming. Senator Prentice's tax request did not have enough votes in the House.

House Bill 2188 passed and signed into law, authored by Representative Pat Lantz, referring to the state art collection and conservation. Kessler said they were looking into changing the statute if they had to, which was not their first choice. In reality there has been a shortfall for five years in a row so this bill seemed like it was a good alternative. Kessler said that the committee was very receptive. The placement of art and where we put it came up as an issue and she thought the Commission should look at that at some point in the future. In particular, prison art is still controversial.

Kessler concluded that the session was a good one and that the Arts Commission actually got one additional FTE and did not get a budget cut. Kessler said that she appreciated the Commission's support and hoped that Commissioners felt that the legislature supported them.

Senator Pat Thibaudeau said she was pleased with the results of the 2005 session. Some members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee anticipated major

cuts in programs and that did not happen. There was no general tax increase, but increases in taxes on liquor and cigarettes; the public is more willing to support that. Building for the Arts, which is the arts portion of the capital budget, amounts to \$4 million, in addition to community projects. Thibaudeau said that the support of the Governor and legislative leadership was critical.

Moore commented that Arts Day was successful and for the first time, arts was largely a non-partisan issue.

### **Strategic Plan Committees**

Commissioners met in committees. A progress report of each Strategic Plan Committee is planned for the August 2005 Commission meeting in Long Beach.

### **Arts Ed Washington**

Merriman introduced Una MacAlinden, Executive Director of Arts Ed Washington. MacAlinden stated that Arts Ed Washington is the new name of Washington Alliance for Arts Education, which has been around for approximately 30 years. It is part of a network of state alliances through the Kennedy Center. The mission was changed and aligned as well. The mission is now to promote comprehensive and sequential arts education for all students through leadership, advocacy and communication. They have gone through strategic planning in the last year and a half and identified their constituency to be everyone who cares about arts education. The board made a decision to focus on principals as the strongest and most effective point of leverage into the schools. This year they hope to involve 15 schools. They are currently seeking contracts east of the Cascades. MacAlinden invited all Commissioners to attend their annual meeting, which is on Thursday, June 2 at the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

The Washington State Arts Commission is a member of Arts Ed Washington. MacAlinden invited Commissioners to join as individual members.

### **Folk Arts in the Parks**

Smyth stated that Bidwell has been working with National Parks and Northwest Folklife to bring folk and traditional arts to Washington State Parks along the Lewis and Clark trail.

Smyth introduced Jill Linzee, Director of Public Programs, with Northwest Folklife.

Linzee thanked Bidwell and Smyth as the driving forces at WSAC who helped get this program off the ground. Linzee distributed posters from the Arts and Trails Project. The poster was designed and printed with support from Washington State Parks and has a listing of all the programs that will take place from April through September of this year.

Linzee said that this project is an initiative of the Rivers and Trails Program at National Parks, with state arts commissions in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Northwest Folklife was selected to implement this project along the Lewis and Clark Trail in six state parks from Cape Disappointment to the Tri-Cities area at Sacajawea State Park. There are six parks all together participating in the project. Programs feature traditional and folk artists.

Linzee introduced Jens Lund of Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Lund stated that he was hired through WSAC's partnership with Washington State Parks and Recreation (WSPRC), which has grown since WSAC Director Kris Tucker and Rex Derr, Director of WSPRC signed an agreement a few years ago. He hopes to bring folk arts events into parks all around the state in the foreseeable future. Last December at the Theater for Columbia in Chinook was the first event involving fisher poets and music. 100 people attended. More recently, a Cinco de Mayo fiesta was held at a State Park on the Canadian border; 700 people attended that event. Last weekend a Native American Heritage Day was celebrated at Sacajawea State Park in Pasco as well as an evening of contra dance and music from the Lewis and Clark era at the Theater in Fort Columbia.

Lund said that the Parks Commission is looking forward to its centennial and seeks to broaden the constituency of people who use state parks to increase Latinos, Asians, new immigrants from the Middle East and former Soviet Union populations. The focus is to bring them into the parks so they can learn about the parks and begin to use them. Also, users have many other events occupying their time.

Lund introduced Jim French, from WSPRC.

French stated that WSPRC is one of the largest in the nation in terms of visitation: 45 million people enjoy the Washington State Parks system. It is also one of the most diverse as it relates to types of facilities they offer. Reiterating Lund's statement, WSPRC recognizes that they don't appeal right now to the diversity of population located in our state. The Commission looked for opportunities on how state parks served as a venue and an opportunity for cultural expression. The Folk and Traditional Arts Program has opened the doors and given them a new way to reach people. French said that the term "Arts and Trails" can be confusing and is a brand new experience.

Linzee and Lund presented slides of the projects.

### **Director's Report**

Tucker reviewed her report included in the packet and on file. Tucker thanked Linzee, Lund and French for their presentations. She stated that she was excited and pleased about the partnership between WSAC, State Parks and Northwest Folklife in pursuing mutual goals and expanding opportunities to participate in the arts.

Tucker stated that the next Commission meeting would be held in Long Beach August 2 and 3 where she hopes to hear more about the arts and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Tucker said that she has been reappointed by Governor Gregoire; it is rewarding to contribute to the Governor's commitment to the legacy of the state that is about public service and stewardship. Governor Gregoire recognizes the importance of the arts to the agenda that she is pursuing. The Governor is looking to WSAC to be her people to get the job done.

Tucker referred to her report about the recap of the 2005 Legislative session. The budgets were signed yesterday and she has not yet analyzed the final budget. There are sections specifically with the Capital budget, which need further clarification.

Tucker noted that there was a break-in to the WSAC offices in mid-April. The WSAC office is next to an office that had been vacated where a door was left open and someone broke through a wall into the Public Art office. Some of the computer equipment was stolen and two Jacob Lawrence works from the John Brown series in the state collection were taken. WSAC is distraught over this and hopeful that they will be returned but it is certainly cautious optimism at best. An announcement has been strategically targeted to galleries and other arts experts.

Tucker reminded Commissioners that a year ago, Funds for Special Projects was approved. This was a line item that she has discretion over to disburse money for projects; a report is in this meeting packet. She noted she is not calling for requests but providing accountability since these are public funds. Projects funded don't fit into WSAC's grant programs but are critical needs. Cautiously, Tucker stated that these funds are available should Commissioners be aware of a need such as natural disasters or emergency situation in one of our communities. The arts sometimes are an important resource to a local community to get them through a crisis situation.

Tucker will be convening a discussion on international programs on Friday, May 27 in the conference room at the Pacific Northwest Ballet. This will be an open discussion about how WSAC and other entities can best invest in international work, knowing that there are not a lot of resources such as staff or money but there is opportunity to strengthen the position of the arts in the state's international trade and exchange agenda. Tucker invited all Commissioners to participate in this discussion. Travel money is available in the Commissioner budget for assistance in attending this meeting.

Thibaudeau asked Tucker to update Commissioners on WSAC's work with China and international trade.

Tucker responded that she received a letter from CWCIE about 6 months ago asking WSAC to look at a variety of partnership opportunities; the letter will be part of the agenda for the May 27 discussion. She has written two support letters for artists that have come here from China, saying that WSAC is looking at opportunities for trade and education.

Tucker said that there are some staffing changes and that a search process is being developed to fill the positions of the Grants to Organizations Manager and Arts in Education Manager.

Nichols asked if the Arts Education Resource Initiative would be sent to Commissioners when it is finished.

Tucker explained that the Arts Education Resource Initiative is the project that has been in the works for a couple of years with the support of Washington Mutual. The research is almost done. WSAC is working with editors and graphic designers and expect to have print publications and on-line publications done in late July or early August. This project was about identifying best practices or proven practices in art education in Washington State in local communities and what it would do more of what works. She is optimistic about this work and feels that the timing is critical and that this is a great role for WSAC.

Thibaudeau asked how and why arts organizations, especially in the Seattle area are supporting K-12 education in the local schools.

Tucker said that WSAC is supporting arts organizations including the Pacific Northwest Ballet and the Seattle Rep, that do effective arts education programs in

schools here. Referring to the handout distributed earlier, many WSAC Arts Education grantees are in the Puget Sound area. The Art in Education Committee is wrestling with questions about what this means for the rest of the state and how to support these programs so that students around the state have these opportunities. Just because it is working well in one place, do we want to, or can we sustain similar efforts elsewhere?

### **Access Committee**

Bidwell referred to the Access Committee report distributed earlier, which is on file.

Attached to the report is a sample letter that is being sent to all Cooperative Partners to ask them to look at their own programmatic and facility accessibility by doing a self-assessment. A copy of the self-assessment tool is being sent to all Cooperative Partners. The committee is committed to using this tool for WSAC, hoping to complete by August 31 and is asking each Cooperative Partner to complete their assessment by then as well.

Curtiss said that Centrum is trying to create programs specifically in integrated dance and has great vision and will be doing a one-day workshop in August. She also stated that when collecting accessibility data, a project could be inclusive without being 50% focused on disabilities. Planning is the key: the long-range goal is to make sure that all grantees comply with the laws about accessibility.

Nichols asked if this survey can advise how soon people should expect to contact organizations to ask for special accommodation.

Bidwell responded that people need to be reminded that the options are there. For instance, if an interpreter is needed by a certain date a reasonable amount of time should be provided to supply that.

Curtiss said it would be ideal that a certain amount of money be set aside in budgets to meet these needs.

Bruce said that it was the responsibility of organizations to think responsibly.

Merriman stated that the big thing was awareness and to continually discuss these issues.

### **Health Insurance Project with Artist Trust**

Leann Johnson said that she was a representative of the Commission to the Washington Artists Health Insurance Project. The background is that more and more people have less coverage and it is increasingly important to get formal insurance coverage. Many artists are self-employed and there is concern that insurance is affordable; this is a national concern. The process is led by LINC, (Leveraging Investment in Creativity) and Artist Trust. LINC is a 10-year endowment campaign to better the conditions for artists. Involved in the project are about 40 groups statewide, including WSAC. The primary focus of this project is health insurance for artists, which will also open the door to dialog for health insurance in other areas for people that are traditionally under-covered or not covered at all. This report will provide information for the health care industry and for the arts sector to provide a strategy from nation-wide sources; the report will be available on WSAC's website. The next step will be for a regional survey to be developed; 6,000 people will be

asked to participate. Survey results will be considered at a forum on July 18 in Seattle.

Thibaudeau asked if the group was working with health insurance carriers or looking for insurance carriers that could do a group plan.

Johnson said that they were working on both issues and this will be discussed at the July forum to determine which would be the best way to go for people.

### **International Exchanges**

Leo-Gwin said that David Mao, a Shanghai attorney, came to Seattle in March and brought with him news that the Chinese government has passed a law to support a cultural exchange. They are very interested in Tucker's delegation and the discussions that were held during that trip, particularly about public art. Tucker wrote a letter supporting the visit of Jackson Li, a ceramic artist here this month and returning in March 2006.

Cami Smith stated that Edmonds Community College is sending a delegation to China, to include artists, arts leaders, business leaders and elected officials; the delegation hopes to begin to talk more closely with China to explore possibilities around economic development. Smith said that if any Commissioners were interested in being a part of the delegation please contact her.

### **Consent Agenda**

Under the Professional Development Assistance agenda item, Moore asked if the information at the bottom of the page was correct in reading: "Following are grants submitted and approved using the *second* part of PDAP funds for FY2006". Bidwell, acknowledged the correction to read: "Following are grants submitted and approved using the *first* part of PDAP funds for FY2006."

Nichols moved to accept the Consent Agenda in its entirety.

Lyttle seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Action Items: Budget**

Tucker reviewed the financial report through the third quarter of the current fiscal year (through March 31, 2005).

Moore asked about programs that seem to have a majority of their FY05 funds remaining at this time, specifically, the Washington Mutual project.

Tucker said that this project has private funding so WSAC is allowed to carry that money over; it is a contract for services, including research, design and printing. Those contracts are pending. If we don't spend the money in this biennium, we don't lose it, we can carry it over.

Moore asked about Folk Arts Projects.

Tucker stated that she expects this will be spent by the end of FY05.

Moore asked if the Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards (GAHA) were being carried over for another year.

Tucker responded that GAHA will happen in the fall of 2005, which is Fiscal Year 2006.

Nichols asked about the money from the Department of Agriculture, Small Communities Grant.

Tucker said that this money is folded in to Project Support. She said that the USDA wanted to support arts projects and provided WSAC these funds to distribute through Project Support. When considering PSP grant applications, USDA funds were distributed to projects that met their criteria.

Thibaudeau asked if agencies have to report donations for private funds to the Legislature's fiscal committees.

Tucker stated that this is reported to OFM.

Tucker suggested a vote for pages 28 through 31.

Moore moved to accept the Financial Report for fiscal year 2005 and the 2003-2005 Biennium Budget.

Nichols seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Staff Budget Proposal - 2005-2007 Biennium**

Tucker stated that the staff budget proposal reflects input from all staff. The proposal moves the strategic plan forward with available resources. At our May meeting two years ago, the legislature had not yet approved a budget so the Interim Committee approved the WSAC budget between the May and August meetings; their action was ratified by the full Commission at the August meeting in 2003. This year the legislature got done on time so the Commission can move forward with our granting process and notify our applicants of funding amounts earlier than we did two years ago. Tucker noted that the 2005, 2007 budget proposal is similar to the previous biennium. She discussed some differences as identified in the proposal on page 32. The actual amounts may change somewhat due to "back of budget" adjustments but we will make those changes and bring the budget back to the Commission in August. WSAC received maintenance level budget plus one FTE additional, specifically for capital budget activity related to our Public Art Program, funded through the Capital Budget. Capital Budget revenue is not allocated specifically to our agency but to other agencies that are building buildings; the ½ of 1% for art includes a portion to administer that program.

Tucker said that WSAC's NEA allocation, which is very important to our agency, is actually reduced for the next year by \$22,100; this represents a shift in NEA priorities, and WSAC grants and programs will be impacted.

In proceeding through the staff proposal, Tucker stated that there are some adjustments to administration and program services. The office lease was negotiated for five years, including fixed costs for utilities. The additional FTE, as proposed will be spent to increase the Collections Manager to full time and to hire a part-time Project Manager for the Art in Public Places Program.

Funding for an Art in Education focus group/training was adjusted for fiscal year 07 to \$5,000 NEA plus \$5,000 State General Funds which corrects a one-time change. The balance returns to grants.

Referring to item D, Tucker said WSAC would be investing \$20,000 a year in bringing on an on-line grant application process. This will have some start-up costs but will soon be a great service for the agency and result in reduced staff time in processing applications, and streamlining the application process. An on-line grant application process will also mean an on-line final report process so that grantees can have an on-line record of what they said they were going to do and then report how

well they did. Staff will not need to re-enter data, so can better track the effectiveness of our expenditures and also develop better reports, and better monitor agency effectiveness.

Tucker said that the additional changes in section A are to continue our commitment as an agency to evaluation and assessment of each objective. Until a couple of years ago, we were evaluating each program of the agency. Now, we are saying that we really need to evaluate the strategic plan with good stories, numbers and documentation. Arts in Education has had a long-term commitment to success in a year and that is why those numbers are a little off compared to the others. Also, the Arts Participation Initiative on the original funding by the Wallace Foundation included an important evaluation investment and we are going to be finishing that up as well.

Tucker stated that this budget represents a continuation of the Arts Participation Initiative with private funds. This initiative has improved the agency's ability to build arts participation and the stability of grass roots organizations across the state.

Legislation approved this session allows us to use Capital budget funds for artwork conservation. The staff proposal is to first develop policies for using Capital budget money for artwork conservation and to continue to invest state general funds money in artwork conservation for this biennium.

Community Projects established in FY05 are in the budget at about \$30,000 in state general funds, including approximately \$20,000 for Folk Arts projects to match NEA grants.

The Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards will be held in FY 06 and \$4,500 is budgeted.

Section F is the balancing item to allow any necessary adjustment to Arts in Education and Grants to Organizations; this is where the flexibility is.

Tucker referred to budget reports, comparing the 2003-2005 biennium with the 2005-2007 biennium.

Moore asked about the investments to e-grants at \$20,000 and collaborations with other funders.

Tucker responded that we are looking at the options. Gerth has had meetings with King County 4-Culture and the Seattle Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture. A collaborative effort would make it easier for grantees.

Moore asked if Tucker was looking at a singular funding source as it relates to the Arts Participation Initiative or a more far-reaching project fund raising campaign in mind?

Tucker said the fundraising will be more singular.

Moore referred to the Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards (GAHA) as it stands in the 03-05 biennium budget as an expense and asked if it is carried over.

Tucker said that we can't carry it over; the money will be spent but not on GAHA.

Nichols said that if WSAC is going to be investing in e-grants, we need to have a discussion on how to reach people who are underserved by technology. She also questioned the reduction in funding in two columns.

Tucker said that there were a lot of reductions in funds in the variance column. Lyttle asked how much from the Capital budget was used for art.

Tucker said that we are using 85% to buy art. Whatever we get through the Capital budget, we can only spend 15% on administration. The budget, as just approved allows up to \$100,000 for artwork conservation. We are not clear which side of the formula that it comes out of.

Mandeberg commented on section C making a correction on the top of page 33 relating to artwork conservation to read “\$25,000 State General Funds *per year* through the biennium.” The correct amount is reflected on the budget documents.

Moore moved to accept the budget documents for the biennium 05-07.

Thibaudeau seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Presentations**

### **Vancouver Historic Reserve - Doug Sessions**

The Friends of the Arts is a private non-profit (501c3) organization with a 20-year record of advocating for the creation of art institutions in Vancouver, WA. including the Columbia Arts Center, Vancouver Cultural Commission, and the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics. At the request of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, a partnership of the U.S. Army, National Parks Service, City of Vancouver, and the VNHR Trust, Friends of the Arts is prepared to present its proposal for the creation of an artist community with artist studios and storage, office space for arts organizations, classrooms, art production areas, art gallery, cafe, art retail spaces, and an art business center in the historic Artillery Building (1904). The working title for the visual art center/artist community is *The ARTillery at the Reserve*. Friends of the Arts estimate the total renovation cost for the building to be \$5 million. At present, \$4.2 million is available for the project. If the Friends of the Arts proposal is approved, renovation could begin immediately.

### **Public Art at University of Washington - Kurt Kiefer**

University of Washington Campus Art Administrator Kurt Kiefer presented a brief slideshow of artworks developed by the Art in Public Places program in collaboration with the UW Public Art Commission (UWPAC). He noted that the university and WSAC had been coordinating these efforts under an Interagency Agreement negotiated in 1993. The UWPAC is a standing, jointly appointed committee of ten, with roughly seven members appointed by the university and three appointed by WSAC. Two of the university appointments are students. The WSAC appointments currently are Larry Rinder (Dean, Graduate Program, California College of Arts and Crafts), Valerie Soe (artist, San Francisco), and Frank Video (artist, Seattle).

The percent-for-art funds generated by new state-funded construction on the university campuses are pooled on their respective campuses. This allows UWPAC to address the campuses as a whole, rather than focusing entirely on the areas of most recent construction. UWPAC's emphasis has been on pedestrian pathways and many of the campus commissions have been for prominent pedestrian intersections. Additionally, a recent focus has been on developing collections of two-dimensional

artwork to address specific campus-community desires, specifically for artwork having to do with issues of ethnic and racial identity.

Kiefer showed slides of monumental sculptures such as the recently installed work by Cris Bruch on Parrington Lawn and a 1995 sculpture by Martin Puryear in the Physics/Astronomy Courtyard. He also showed a series of time-based projects that have been very successful on campus. Kiefer noted that a website depicting the entire Campus Art Collection and AIPP works at UW will be up and running by Fall 2005.

### **Action Items**

#### **Folk Arts Fellowships and Apprenticeships: Panel Recommendations**

Smyth referred to his report as submitted in the packet and retained on file.

Bruce asked how the Folk Arts Program was being proactive to identify excellence. Is there something that happens in this process that is different from other processes to target individuals or groups to get the applications in and get closer to the number of awardees?

Smyth responded that the Apprenticeship process begins with a mailing; about 20% come back with address changes. The Folk Arts Program gets far fewer applications than the number of forms that are sent out. Step two involves going through the applications and helping people make them stronger; in some cases staff recommends they apply next year because this involves not just setting up the master teacher but finding a prospective apprentice available for a full year. The quality of applications is extremely good which is an indication that we don't need to recruit a lot more.

Smyth said that the Fellowships are \$5,000 outright awards that go to two people. The criterion is similar to the Apprenticeships but there is not a proposal or feasibility for project, it is an award based on contributions that that person has made. A key issue is community support, such as letters of support from the community that indicate that this person has made great contributions. The other criteria are artistic excellence and within this field, traditionality.

Smith asked how the process was handled if the application was denied and how that was communicated to the applicant.

Smyth responded that a letter was sent, stating that if they needed more information about why they did not receive the award, they should contact him and he would explain based on the notes from the panel.

Bruce moved to accept the panel recommendations as submitted.

Bridges seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Arts Participation Initiative: FY2006 proposal**

Tsutukawa referred to her report as submitted in the packet and retained on file. She said that although Wallace was funding the administrative costs, the National Endowment for the Arts will be funding the actual grants. The point here is to encourage grass-roots groups and target community that can show evidence of having worked with for many years in low income, rural, ethnic and disabled arts projects with approval of this proposal, a call for new applications will be going out immediately. The guidelines will be on the website tomorrow. It is a very short

timeline since the finals will be brought back to the Commission meeting in August. It is a two-step process. There will be letters of intent; the panel will meet and choose the finalists; the finalists will select about 20 to continue to the second phase, which is an Excel workbook and very easy to use. These guidelines are exactly the same as last time, with only changes of dates applicants will be notified June 28; final applications will be due July 25 and the panel meeting will be August 1. The criteria and process are basically the same as the first time around, except the first time around was a three-year multi-year grant and this time we can only promise one year. There will, however, be a convening of the grantees. About 50 representatives of the 15 grantees from the underserved communities attended the convening in April. These meetings are mandatory and work very well.

Nichols moved to approve the Arts Participation Initiative guidelines as submitted.

Leo-Gwin seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards

Gerth notified Commissioners that the Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards (GAHA) will be held fall 2005. Gerth distributed a draft Call for Nominations. He said that he anticipates changes to this document. WSAC is working closely with the Governor's office and the Governor's mansion to arrange a schedule that will work best for Governor Gregoire.

Merriman reminded Commissioners that the next meeting would be August 2 and 3, 2005 in Long Beach. This meeting will include electing a new slate of officers. Within the next few weeks, he will be calling Commissioners to participate in the Nominations Committee for those elections.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.**